

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 00681

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS SP LY AG EG
SUBJECT: VISIT TO TRIPOLI OF DON JUAN DE BORBON

1. ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER,
DIRECTOR GENERAL NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS OF THE
FONOFF (DURAN) INFORMED ME THIS MORNING THAT THE
KING'S FATHER, DON JUAN DE BORBON, WILL GO TO
TRIPOLI JANUARY 20 FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH QADHAFI
AND OTHER LIBYAN LEADERS.

2. DURAN SAID THAT THE TRIP WAS BEING MADE BECAUSE
OF INCREASING SPANISH CONCERN OVER ALGERIAN ACTIVITIES
VIS-A-VIS THE CANARY ISLANDS AND THE ROLE WHICH LIBYA
HAS PLAYED WITH REGARD TO THE OAU DECISION SEVERAL
MONTHS AGO TO SEND AN INQUIRY COMMITTEE TO THE CANARIES.
WHILE THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONTACT BETWEEN SPAIN AND
LIBYA, INCLUDING A VISIT TO MADRID LAST YEAR BY JALLUD,
QADHAFI'S NOSE HAD BEEN OUT OF JOINT BECAUSE NEITHER
THE KING NOR PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ HAS INCLUDED LIBYA
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IN ONE OF THEIR TRIPS. BECAUSE OF THIS AND CONCERN
WITH THE CANARY ISLANDS SITUATION THE KING HAD MADE
THE DECISION TO ASK HIS FATHER TO UNDERTAKE THIS SPECIAL
MISSION. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS IS THE FIRST
TIME THAT DON JUAN HAS BEEN ASKED TO PERFORM SUCH A
ROLE SINCE HIS SON BECAME KING.)

3. DURAN SAID THAT DON JUAN'S MISSION WOULD BE TWOFOLD:
THE FIRST WOULD BE TO TRY TO PERSUADE QADHAFI TO HELP
MODERATE ALGERIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SPAIN AND THE CANARY
ISLANDS, INCLUDING CLAMPING DOWN ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
CUBILLO AND THE LATTER'S CANARY ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENT. THE SECOND OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO TRY TO PERSUADE
QADHAFI NOT TO PRESS FOR A VISIT OF THE OAU INQUIRY
COMMITTEE TO THE CANARY ISLANDS. THE SPANISH WOULD
NOT AGREE TO RECEIVE SUCH A COMMITTEE AND WANTED QADHAFI
TO KNOW THAT THIS WAS NOT AIMED AGAINST LIBYA SPECIFICALLY.
THE MEETING OF THE OAU'S LIBERATION COMMITTEE IN TRIPOLI
AT ABOUT THIS TIME GAVE ADDED URGENCY TO DON JUAN'S
MISSION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY AS TO WHAT CHANCES OF SUCCESS
THERE MIGHT BE FOR THIS MISSION GIVEN THE CLOSENESS OF
ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN VIEWS ON THE SAHARA, DURAN SAID THE
SPANISH BELIEVE LIBYA WAS PERHAPS NOT SO INVOLVED AS
PREVIOUSLY ON THIS MATTER. THE HOPE WAS THAT QUADHAFI
WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THIS HIGH LEVEL TREATMENT BY THE
KING'S FATHER.

5. FINALLY DURAN SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WANTED
US PARTICULARLY TO KNOW THAT DON JUAN'S MISSION HAD NOTHING
TO DO WITH CURRENT MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. DON JUAN
WOULD OF COURSE BE SUPPORTIVE OF PEACE INITIATIVES.
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DURAN SAID HE ASSUMED THAT THE FONOFF WOULD ALSO BE
BRIEFING THE EGYPTIANS AS TO THE NATURE OF DON JUAN'S
TRIP. STABLER

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